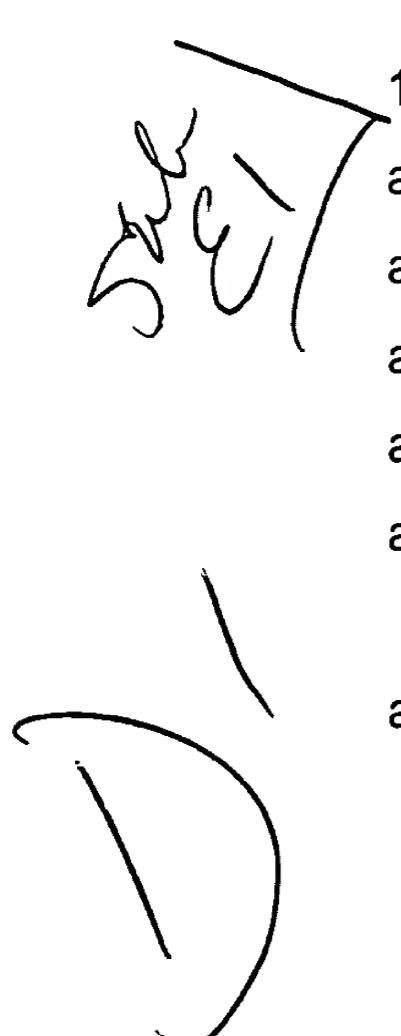


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:



1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a first audio input/output connector;
 - at least one second audio input/output connector;
 - an audio controller;
 - a circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller;
 - at least one circuit coupling at least one second audio input/output connector to the audio controller;
 - a device including a transistor triggered by a switch integrated into one of the connectors for localizing a grounding source and mitigating noise, the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector; and
 - a direct-current blocking cap including a filter circuit coupled with an inverting amplifier, wherein the device is coupled between the direct-current blocking cap and a primary audio input/output coupling.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector comprises a field effect transistor.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the transistor is a field effect transistor comprising comprises a drain, a source, and a gate, wherein the drain is coupled to the first audio input/output connector, the source is coupled to ground, and the gate is coupled to at least one second audio input/output connector such that current flows into the gate when an audio input/output device is coupled to a second audio input/output connector to which the gate is coupled.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector switch comprises a mechanical switch.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the second audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:
a processor;
a memory coupled to the processor;
an audio controller coupled to the processor;
a first audio input/output connector coupled to the audio controller;
at least one second audio input/output connector coupled to the audio controller;

a device including a transistor triggered by a switch integrated into one of the connectors for localizing a grounding source and mitigating noise, the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from a circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector; and
a direct-current blocking cap including a filter circuit coupled with an inverting amplifier, wherein the device is coupled between the direct-current blocking cap and a primary audio input/output coupling.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector comprises a field effect transistor.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 9, wherein the transistor is a field effect transistor comprising comprises a drain, a source, and a gate, wherein the drain is coupled to the first audio input/output connector, the source is coupled to ground, and the gate is coupled to at least one second audio input/output connector such that current flows into the gate when an audio input/output device is coupled to a second audio input/output connector to which the gate is coupled.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio

PATENT

Docket Number: 16356.739 (DC-02368)

Customer No. 000027683

~~input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector switch is a mechanical switch.~~

Bul
D 13. (Original) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the first audio input/output connector is a jack.

14. (Original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein the second audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

15. (Original) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the second audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

16. (Cancelled).